

APPENDIX A

CLAIMS UNDER APPEAL

1. A medical data base supervisory control system comprising:

(a) at least one data base including medical data individually relating to each of a plurality of patients,

(b) means including interconnected computers for requesting and accessing said medical data,

(c) means for identifying medical data for each of said patients with conditions required for accessing said medical data, and

(d) data processing means responsive to a request for patient medical data for comparing said request with said conditions required for access to said data and, when said request fails to comply with said conditions, for denying access to said data.

2. A system of Claim 1 further including means for authenticating the identity of the requesting party.

3. The system of Claim 2 further including means to prevent access to information concerning medical records by any party without the prior authorization of the patient about whom such records pertain.

4. The system of Claim 1 further including means for tentatively identifying records fulfilling criteria specified in said request for medical data.

5. The system of Claim 4 further including means for authenticating identity of said patients.

6. The system of Claim 1 wherein said means for requesting said medical data includes means for indicating what part of said records is desired.

7. The system of Claim 1 wherein said means for requesting access to said medical records includes means for indicating the reason said records are being requested.

8. The system of Claim 1 further including means for identifying records fulfilling said request with data symbolic of patient identity.

9. The system of Claim 8 wherein said means for identifying records fulfilling said request further include data symbolic of medical symptoms or reason for patient visit.

10. The system of Claim 8 wherein said means for identifying records fulfilling said request further include data symbolic of types of diagnostic tests performed.

11. The system of Claim 10 wherein said means for identifying records fulfilling said request further include data symbolic of the attributes, levels or findings indicated within said diagnostic tests.

12. The system of Claim 8 wherein said means for identifying records fulfilling said request further include data symbolic of modes of treatment or medical services rendered.

13. The system of Claim 8 wherein said means used for identifying records fulfilling said request further include data

symbolic of any ancillary services rendered.

14. The system of Claim 8 wherein said means used for identifying records fulfilling said request further include data symbolic of attending physician identity.

15. The system of Claim 8 wherein said means for identifying records fulfilling such request further include data symbolic of date of care.

16. The system of Claim 1 wherein said means for requesting and accessing said medical data includes means for indicating a "standing order" that will automatically initiate an attempt to retrieve certain predetermined types of medical data under specific pre-specified circumstances.

17. The system of Claim 1 wherein said conditions required for accessing said medical data includes an indication of the names of each of the parties who's permission must be obtained prior to the release of the medical data.

18. The system of Claim 17 wherein said conditions required for accessing said medical data further includes an indication of the charge that will be assessed by the holder of such medical data for the part, or in the form, specified by the requesting party.

19. The system of Claim 17 wherein said conditions for accessing said medical data includes means indicating the time following the receipt of all approvals that will be required for the delivery of such medical data to the requesting party.

20. The system of Claim 1 wherein said at least one data

base includes a firewall limiting access to searching such data base solely to those parties who are authorized to do so.

21. The system of Claim 1 wherein said means for identifying medical data fulfilling criteria specified in a request include means for producing an indicia of the degree to which patient data match said criteria specified in said request.

22. The system of Claim 1 including means for a patient to grant permission for the release of his/her medical data.

23. The system of Claim 22 wherein said at least one data base includes billing means having access to said medical data.

24. The system of Claim 22 wherein said means for a patient to grant permission includes data symbolic of the identity of said patient and data symbolic of the preferred means for contacting said patient to request access to and release of said patient's medical data.

25. The system of Claim 23 wherein said means for a patient to grant permission includes data symbolic of rules to be followed in the event time elapses before such permission is granted in the case of predetermined types of requests for said medical data.

26. The system of Claim 1 further including means for identifying the party requesting access to said medical data.

27. The system of Claim 26 further including means for authenticating the identity of each party having right of approval for release of said medical data.

28. The system of Claim 27 further including means for

producing an indicia that all required approvals for the release of said medical data have been secured.

29. The system of Claim 28 further including means for producing an indicia of the required approvals for the release of said medical data that have not been secured or that have been specifically declined.

30. The system of Claim 20 further including data index means and on-line memory cache means for physically disconnecting said at least one data base from said data index means, online memory cache means and all other outside parties except during batch process of uploading pre-designated and fully-approved requests for medical data.

31. The system of Claim 30 further including interface engine means enabling a search agent means to index said at least one data base of medical data.

32. The system of Claim 1 further including means for billing said requesting party for a charge related to access to the medical data.

33. The system of Claim 1 further including online memory cache means and means for delivering medical data to a requesting party including means for transmitting requested medical data held in digital form to said online memory cache means.

34. The system of Claim 33 wherein said online memory cache means includes a firewall limiting access to said memory cache means exclusively to authorized users.

35. The system of Claim 33 further including means for

producing an indicia that said requested medical data have been received in said online memory cache means and are being held there for download by said requesting party.

36. The system of Claim 34 further including means for said requesting party to enter through said firewall and download said medical data from said memory cache means.

37. The system of Claim 1 including means for delivering medical data to a requesting party.

38. The system of Claim 37 further including means for informing said requesting party when medical data is in a non-digital form and the mode of available delivery.

39. The system of Claim 1 further including means for encrypting all communications within the system.

40. The system of Claim 1 further including security log means for retaining an audit trail with regard to all of the communications within said system.

41. The system of Claim 1 further including public portions, and comprising means for allowing parties to advertise in said public portions of said system

42. A method of controlling access to medical data in a medical data base comprising:

(a) maintaining at least one data base including medical data individually relating to each of a plurality of patients,

(b) identifying medical data for each of said patients with indicia indicative of conditions required for access to said medical data,

(c) selectively introducing requests for access to said data through an interconnected computer input terminal,

(d) comparing said requests with said conditions; and, when said requests fail to comply with said conditions, automatically denying access to said data.

43. The method of Claim 42 further including a step of authenticating identities of parties making said requests.

44. The method of Claim 43 further includes the step of rejecting requests for information concerning medical records by any party without the prior authorization of the patient about whom such records pertain.

45. The method of Claim 42 further including the step of tentatively identifying records fulfilling criteria specified in said requests for medical data.

46. The method of Claim 45 further including a step of authenticating identities of said patients.

47. The method of Claim 42 further including steps of requesting said medical data and indicating what part of said data is desired by said requesting party.

48. The method of Claim 42 further including steps of requesting access to said medical records and indicating a reason said records are being requested.

49. The method of Claim 42 including a step of ensuring that records fulfilling said requests include data symbolic of patient identities.

50. The method of Claim 49 wherein said step of identifying

records fulfilling said requests further include data symbolic of medical symptoms or reason for patient visit.

51. The method of Claim 49 wherein said step of identifying records fulfilling said requests further include data symbolic of types of diagnostic tests performed.

52. The method of Claim 51 wherein said step of identifying records fulfilling said requests further include data symbolic of the attributes, levels or findings indicated within said diagnostic tests.

53. The method of Claim 49 wherein said step of identifying records fulfilling said requests further include data symbolic of modes of treatment or medical services rendered.

54. The method of Claim 49 wherein said step of identifying records fulfilling said requests further include data symbolic of the ancillary services rendered.

55. The method of Claim 49 wherein said step of identifying records fulfilling said requests further include data symbolic of attending physician identity.

56. The method of Claim 49 wherein said step of identifying records fulfilling said requests further include data symbolic of date of care.

57. The method of Claim 42 wherein said step of selectively introducing requests for access to said medical data includes a step of indicating a "standing order" that will automatically initiate an attempt to retrieve certain predetermined types of medical data under specific pre-specified circumstances.

58. The method of Claim 42 wherein said conditions required for accessing said medical data include a step of indicating names of each party who's permission must be obtained prior to release of said medical data.

59. The method of Claim 58 wherein said conditions required for accessing said medical data include an indication of the charge that will be assessed by the holder of such medical data for the part, or in the form, specified by the requesting party.

60. The method of Claim 58 wherein said conditions for accessing said medical data include a step of indicating the time following the receipt of all approvals that will be required for the delivery of such medical data to the requesting party.

61. The method of Claim 42 wherein maintaining said at least one data base includes maintaining a firewall limiting access to searching said data base solely to those parties who are authorized to do so.

62. The method of Claim 42 further including providing a data index, and wherein identifying medical data fulfilling criteria specified in a request includes a step of producing an indicia of the degree to which data listed in said data index match said criteria specified in said request.

63. The method of Claim 42 including a step of providing for a patient to grant permission to release of such medical data.

64. The method of Claim 63 wherein said step of identifying medical data includes a step of billing for access to said medical data.

65. The method of Claim 63 wherein said step of providing for a patient to grant permission includes data symbolic of the identity of said patient and data symbolic of a preferred means for contacting said patient to request access to and to release of said patient's medical data.

66. The method of Claim 64 wherein said step of providing for a patient to grant permission includes providing data symbolic of rules to be followed in the event time elapses before said permission is granted in the case of pre-determined types of requests for said medical data.

67. The method of Claim 42 further including a step of identifying a party requesting access to said medical data.

68. The method of Claim 67 further including a step of authenticating identity of each party with a right of approval to release of said medical data.

69. The method of Claim 68 further including a step of producing an indicia that all required approvals for release of said medical data have been secured.

70. The method of Claim 69 further including a step of producing an indicia of approvals required for release of said medical data that have not been secured, or that have been specifically declined.

71. The method of Claim 61 further including steps of providing a data index and online memory cache, and physically disconnecting said at least one data base from said data index, said online memory cache and all other outside parties except

during batch process of uploading pre-designated and fully-approved requests for medical data.

72. The method of Claim 71 further including a step of providing an interface engine for search agent means to index said at least one data base of medical data.

73. The method of Claim 42 further including a step of billing a requesting party for a charge related to delivery of medical data.

74. The method of Claim 42 further including steps of providing an online memory cache and delivering medical data to a requesting party and transmitting records in digital form to said online memory cache.

75. The method of Claim 72 further including providing a firewall limiting access to said memory cache exclusively to authorized users.

76. The method of Claim 72 further including a step of producing an indicia that requested medical data have been received in said online memory cache and are being held there for download by a requesting party.

77. The method of Claim 75 further including a step of permitting a properly credentialed requesting party to enter through said firewall and download said medical data from said memory cache.

78. The method of Claim 42 including a step of delivering records to the requesting party.

79. The method of Claim 78 further including a step of

informing a requesting party when medical data is in a non-digital form and the mode of such delivery.

80. The method of Claim 42 further including a step of encrypting selected communications within said system.

81. The method of Claim 42 further including a step of creating a security log and retaining an audit trail with regard to all of the communications between parties using said system.